

1 1. A method comprising:
2 automatically sending a discovery message to a
3 node; and
4 enabling node access if a response to the
5 discovery message is received.

1 2. The method of claim 1 including implementing a
2 state machine with a connected and a disconnected state and
3 automatically transitioning from the disconnected state to
4 the connected state when a response to a discovery message
5 is received.

1 3. The method of claim 1 including notifying a
2 client wishing to access a node when a state transition is
3 made based on a response to a discovery message being
4 received.

1 4. The method of claim 1 including automatically
2 checking a link to the node to make sure that the node is
3 still accessible.

1 5. The method of claim 4 including automatically
2 checking said node at timed intervals in order to maintain
3 a connected state.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further including
2 automatically sending a message to determine whether the
3 node is still accessible after said response to said
4 discovery message is received.

1 7. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
3 automatically send a discovery message to a node
4 in response to a request to access the node; and
5 enable node access if a response to the discovery
6 message is received.

1 8. The article of claim 7 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 implement a state machine with a connected and a
4 disconnected state and to automatically transition from the
5 disconnected state to the connected state when a response
6 to a discovery message is received.

1 9. The article of claim 7 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 notify a client wishing to access a node when a state
4 transition is made based on a response to a discovery
5 message being received.

1 10. The article of claim 7 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 automatically check a link to the node to make sure that
4 the node is still accessible.

1 11. The article of claim 10 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 automatically check the node at timed intervals.

1 12. The article of claim 7 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 automatically send a message to determine whether the node
4 is still accessible after said response to said discovery
5 message is received.

1 13. A system comprising:
2 a network interface; and
3 a storage coupled to said network interface, said
4 storage storing instructions that enable said system to
5 automatically send a discovery message to a node over said
6 interface to access the node and to enable node access if a
7 response to the discovery message is received.

1 14. The system of claim 13 wherein said system is a
2 processor-based system.

1 15. The system of claim 13 wherein said storage
2 stores instructions to cause said system to automatically
3 send a message to determine whether the node is still
4 accessible after said response to said discovery message is
5 received.